

Moms Demand Safe Sidewalks For Children



FORCED OUT into traffic is this group of mothers and children on way to Hamilton School along 182nd St. near Crenshaw Boulevard. Parked cars block side of road, and mothers in protest have asked city to build sidewalk along north side of street. —PRESS photo



DANGEROUS OFF-RAMP on south side of 182nd Street contains blind spot where cars turning right cannot see children in crosswalk. Sign helps obscure crosswalk. Mothers oppose proposal by city for push-button signal to enable children to cross just left of ramp. —PRESS photo by William Schell Jr.

THE STORY

Two Eventful Days Of Drama, Tension

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SNAKE EYES



PRIZE SNAKE, Igor, is caressed lovingly by Rick Burkhardt, right, and Mike Wheatley, after boys were rescued from abandoned mine cave-in. Torrance teenagers had sought mice to feed Igor when they were trapped. —PRESS photo by William Schell Jr.

Search for Snake's Meals Traps Two Boys in Cave-In

By **BOB LUPO**

Two Torrance boys went hunting for mice to feed their pet gopher snake—and were almost buried alive in a cave-in high on a steep cliff.

The boys, Mike L. Wheatley, 13, of 1637 Fern St., and Rick Burkhardt, 14, of 2567 Sonoma St., told the story of their narrow brush with death to The Press yesterday.

Mike and Rick, inveterate explorers, although now temporarily hearth-bound by parental edict, were investigating the mysteries of a cave 65 feet up a cliff in the Rolling Hills area near Crenshaw Boulevard and Palos Verdes North on Thursday afternoon.

The cave, some 15 feet across and 45 feet deep, was part of an abandoned mining project. As the boys searched the numerous rooms shooting off the main cave, a 10-foot slab of earth and rock snapped a supporting beam and fell on the boys.

... Started Running

They were pinned down by boulders and heavy chalk, but Mike, crediting his Boy Scout training, managed to get loose.

"I sort of wriggled up to the hole—I kicked a shovel against my foot and freed myself," the youngster said. "I jumped out of the cave, started running, until I reached a mining company about a mile away. Two men there phoned firemen."

The firemen, balked at first in rescue attempts, finally freed the still-imprisoned Rick by using four jacks to raise the boulders that held the Burkhardt boy down.

Rick, who was trapped for more than an hour with only his feet sticking out, said "I was lucky the boulders" (Continued on Page A5)

CARSON GROUP ACTS TO GAIN CITY STATUS

Carson moved closer this week toward full-fledged cityhood.

A notice of intention to incorporate was filed with the board of supervisors by R. B. Keith, of 21511 S. Figueroa St., chairman of the incorporation committee.

The proposed city area would be bounded by Wilmington Avenue on the east, Main Street and the Harbor Freeway on the west, 213th and Dominguez Streets on the north and 223rd Street on the south.

There were 32 signatures attached to the petition and board clerk Gordon Nesvig, who said the proposed city is "the most lucrative and thickly-populated unincorporated area in the county."

BOARD TO MEET

Torrance board of education will consider a wide-ranging list of curriculum and business matters at its regular meeting Tuesday night at 7:30 in the district offices, 2335 Plaza del Amo.

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Wilson Tells His Side Of Controversy

Southwood tract developer Don Wilson, faced with a group of demands by Negro leaders, made the following statements Friday afternoon at a press conference in his office:

"I have already agreed to drop charges against the 40 demonstrators.

"I do not discriminate in sales. This is my policy.

"I already have a Negro salesman at my Centerview tract. He is one of the best prospects in my organization.

"The announced motorcade demonstration came as a complete surprise to me.

"I am willing to talk to the UCRC group. I have told them that I would study their proposals and give them my fullest consideration. I also wrote them to this effect."

Wilson said he had less than 20 homes to sell out of the 650 in the Southwood tract and that "essentially we're out of business here."

He said he had never had a bona fide offer to buy from a qualified Negro buyer before Friday in the Southwood tract. He pointed out he had sold many homes to Negroes in his Centerview tract, but admitted there were few if any Caucasians in that tract.

Wilson said he had been treated unfairly by news media and that his statements had been distorted or edited. "My policy is clearly stated," he said.

The developer added that he "has great respect for the Negro people. That may sound like irony, but it isn't. It's high time they received the rights they are entitled to."

NAME A THEATER WIN FREE PASSES

Today is the last chance to enter the contest to name the beautiful theater now being built in Rolling Hills Plaza. Entry blank is on page A3.

Winner, or all tying as winners, will receive a year's pass to the theater, due to open in September. Each losing entry will still get one free pass. There are no gimmicks—just give your imagination a workout.

Winners will be announced July 8. The beautiful new 1000-seat theater will show first-run pictures. The theater will have largest screen, stereophonic sound, best acoustics, and luxurious surroundings, including seats designed for relaxation and comfort, say the operators.

California Sterling Theaters say their policy will be to make the theater the SHOWPLACE of the community. So—try your hand at naming this coming attraction. Fill out the entry blank on Page A3 and mail it in to The Press, or bring it in to The Press office.

COMPROMISE FAILS -- DEMONSTRATION ON

The bird of compromise flew out the window Friday night and Torrance was prepared Saturday afternoon for the largest racial demonstration yet to hit this growing city of nearly 120,000.

A motorcade launched by the United Civil Rights Committee (UCRC)—which includes the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the Urban League, and numerous other groups, mostly ministerial alliances—was to leave Wrigley Field, Los Angeles, about 1 p.m. for Torrance.

The motorcade was scheduled to arrive in Torrance about 2 p.m., drive through city streets, and broadcast messages by loudspeaker, then disperse at the Southwood Riviera Royal tract of developer Don Wilson in the city's southwest section.

Core to Picket

CORE's officials also announced they intended to picket through the weekend at Wilson's sales office at 23448 Evalyn St. in protest of alleged sales discrimination by Wilson against Negroes. The picketing would continue through the weekend to Sunday night, said spokesman Julian Heicklen, and there appeared to be a possibility that the heretofore reluctant NAACP might join in the picketing after Friday's kaleidoscopic and confused sequence of events.

Torrance police, already accused by CORE of "brutality," were ready for possible disturbances that might be created by outsiders who conceivably might attempt to disrupt the scheduled non-violent demonstrations by UCRC and its member groups.

Police were instructed by Mayor Albert Isen and City Manager Wade Peebles to

preserve peace and quiet and maintain the law. They were told to be courteous and fair but firm. They have been instructed to lean over backwards so as not to present even the most remote possible appearance of unnecessary roughness. Stretchers have been readied so that any possible arrestees at sit-ins would be carried gently to police vans.

Stretchers for Sit-Ins

Lt. Doug Cook of the police department pointed out that police have gone out of their way to protect the demonstrators as well as local residents, and that it is impossible to carry sit-ins who will not move any distance without some minor physical inconveniences.

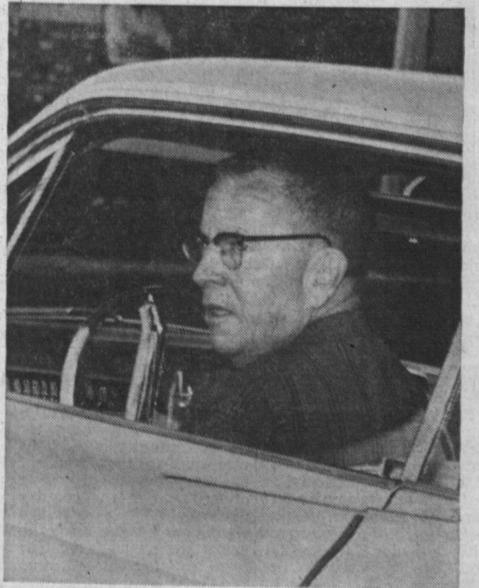
At one point Friday it appeared the whole demonstration scheduled Saturday might have been called off, except for the continued CORE picketing.

Here is the sequence of events Friday:

After a lengthy meeting Thursday between Wilson, UCRC, Torrance city officials, and the County Human Relations Commission had produced no tangible results, a press conference was called for Friday morning at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles by CORE.

The meeting, which started a half hour late, produced a statement by CORE that it was presenting a group of demands on Wilson, among them these main points:

Wilson would be expected to hire a Negro real estate salesman for the Southwood tract, sell a home to a Negro, issue a public policy statement that he does not discriminate, place ads in newspapers to that effect, advertise his all-Negro Centerview tract in the L.A. Times, and his all-white Dominguez Hills and Southwood tracts in the California (Continued on Page A5)



ON HIS WAY from Southwood tract office after hour and two-hour wait for Negro leaders Friday afternoon is developer Don Wilson. —PRESS photo.

Freeway Ramp Crossing Is Assailed

A months-long dispute between the Torrance city council and a group of angry parents in the 182nd St.-Crenshaw area was headed for a showdown at Tuesday night's 5:30 p.m. council meeting in city hall.

The parents, charging unsafe walking and crossing conditions created by a freeway off-ramp and heavy traffic, are demanding a sidewalk on the north side of 182nd St., from Crenshaw Boulevard eastward about a mile to the Hamilton School.

The children involved are from some 300 families north and west of the Crenshaw-182nd St. intersection, the only ones who have to cross either Crenshaw or the freeway ramps to get to the school.

Offer By Council

The council has offered to install an asphalt "sidewalk" on the south side of 182nd St., and to provide a crossing guard to get children across Crenshaw, and a push-button four-way traffic signal to get them (Continued on Page A5)